



## United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

April 9, 2020

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres  
Commonwealth of the Northern  
Mariana Islands  
Caller Box 10007  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Torres:

As you know, the President signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136 designed to provide support to the States, Territories and Freely Associated States to prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19 pandemic.

The Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) is now accepting applications for this emergency COVID-19 funding allocated to the insular areas through OIA's Technical Assistance Program. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) will be allocated \$4,042,585 of this funding based upon total population. I invite you to submit a grant application for this expedited funding immediately.

The application for these emergency COVID-19 funds may be in the form of a letter addressed to me that states the funds will be used to prepare, prevent and respond to COVID-19, along with the required standard forms (attached). In order to expedite the grant award process, OIA is not requiring a detailed budget or timeline with the application, rather, those items will be required after the funding is awarded, before any drawdowns are processed. Drawdown requests should indicate how the drawdown supports CNMI's COVID-19 plan.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact me or have your staff contact Charlene Leizear, Technical Assistance Director, at [Charlene\\_Leizear@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Charlene_Leizear@ios.doi.gov) or Merriam Porter, CNMI TAP Grant Manager, at [Merriam\\_Porter@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Merriam_Porter@ios.doi.gov).

My thoughts and prayers are with you and the people of the CNMI through this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Domenech  
Assistant Secretary  
Insular and International Affairs

Cc: The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan